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ON THE COVER

One of the many amazing photos captured of the Minnesotans United for All Families' victorious campaign, this one was at Twin Cities Pride. Photo by Sophia Hantzes

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Editorial

Managing Editor Andy Lien 612-436-4671
Editorial Assistant Linda Raines 612-436-4694
Editor Emeritus Ethan Boatner 612-436-4670
Editorial Associate George Holdgrafer 612-436-4672
Food Editor Joy Summers
Copy Editor Bridget Rocheford-Kearney
Contributors Scott Endres, Ed Huyck, Justin Jones, Ellen Krug, Steve Lenius, Jennifer Parello, Edward Piechowski & Sean Ryan, Joy Summers, John Townsend, Carla Waldemar, Randy Stern, Kristin Thompson, Shane Lueck, Lannie Walker, Kathleen Watson, Keane Amdahl, Bret Bannon, Brett Stevens

Advertising

Sales & Advertising Director Barry Leavitt 612-436-4690
Senior Account Executive Suzanne Farrell 612-436-4699
Account Executive Scott Belcher 612-436-4675
Advertising Associate George Holdgrafer 612-436-4672
Sales & Advertising Traffic Coordinator
Linda Raines 612-436-4694
Classifieds Suzanne Farrell 612-436-4699
National Sales Representative Rivendell Media
212-242-6863

Creative

Creative Director Hubert Bonnet 612-436-4678
Multimedia Designer Mike Hnida 612-436-4679
Photographer Sophia Hantzes
Lavender Studios Hubert Bonnet, Mike Hnida, Austin Lindstrom

Administration

Publisher Lavender Media, Inc.
President & CEO Stephen Rocheford 612-436-4665
Vice President & CC Pierre Tardif 612-436-4666
Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Lima 612-436-4664
Administrative Assistant Austin Lindstrom 612-436-4661
Founders George Holdgrafer, Stephen Rocheford
Inspiration Steven W. Anderson (1954-1994), Timothy J. Lee (1968-2002), Russell Berg (1957-2005), Kathryn Rocheford (1914-2006), Jonathan Halverson (1974-2010), Adam Houghtaling (1984-2012)

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Lavender Media Inc.

3715 Chicago Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55407
LavenderYellowPages.com
612-436-4660 **office**
877-515-9969 **toll free**
612-436-4685 **fax**
612-436-4664 **subscriptions**
612-436-4660 **distribution**
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The Psychology of Victory

THIS IS a tough one to write. I've been chewing on this since November 7 and it's not getting easier as time goes by. What was our victory on November 6? What will our next one be? The realization that we are no further than we were before the election is really taking root. Worse, the realization that we don't have direction for what's next is truly worrisome. Perhaps by the time this issue is on stands, we'll have more direction, but for now, we're rudderless in the water.

We fought this amendment because we were forced to; it was foisted into our lives. Now, what are we going to *choose* to do?

I don't remember if it was the day after the election or the day after that, but I was approached a bit too soon with the idea that Marriage Equality has been dropped like a hot potato. I believe the term to describe my facial expression was "deer in headlights." Honestly, I was getting an issue to press (a two-day process every ten days) and was working with very little sleep. I was still riding the buzz of victory. I wasn't a deer in headlights, I was pissed off and in denial. I'd say my expression was "stop talking right now."

Dropped? Like a hot potato? HOW? We've got MOMENTUM! We're on a high! WINNING.

If this conversation had been an exchange on the internet, it would've ended with "Too soon? LOL."

It was too soon.

Oh, but guess what. It's never too soon for the media. As the publication for the GLBT community in the state that just defeated a discriminatory amendment by popular vote, I have to stay nimble.

I'd recommend we all stay nimble. But, it's really hard. I'd say that there's a certain barrier we all have to break through to get to the next stage of the unknown.

An important term at this point in the discussion is "cognitive dissonance." Dissonance is discord. What's in our head is our cognition. Cognitive dissonance is a mental quarrel. It brings with it anger, confusion, sadness, grappling. We may hold two or more thoughts that conflict with each other. Mine were: we fought this amendment together, why aren't we fighting for marriage equality together, now? I looked you in the face and listened to you every time you rallied us against this amendment—this summer at Pride, at fundraisers upon fundraisers, at the last rally at the U of M, at Election Night with Minnesotans United for All Families—why are you saying that it's now time to wait to make progress toward Marriage Equality?

Let's look at those ideas, because I know I'm not alone in this gross space of cognitive dissonance. When we notice that we have two conflicting ideas, one of the next steps is to examine them and consider if they're actually conflicting.

To say that we fought this amendment together is true. To assume why we fought it can get us into an unknown area. We don't know why everyone who voted against it voted no, unless they tell us. There were different organizations involved; some pushed for marriage equality; the more vocal and obvious one—Minnesotans United for All Families—was pushing for the defeat of the amendment. The defeat

of the amendment does not mean marriage equality, as we know, but many people supported MUAF because of they're pushing for marriage equality. It worked and it worked well. In my interview with Richard Carlbom in this issue, the MUAF Campaign Manager even says that they were focusing on the emotional aspect of this issue and how much marriage means to keep this amendment out of the constitution. Indeed, it was—and is—emotional.

And, largely because of emotion, it was victorious.

But, there were other reasons why people voted against the amendment. Some people voted no because they recognized that such an amendment didn't belong in the Minnesota State Constitution; perhaps not even really caring about the issue of same-sex marriage. Some people voted no because it was a redundant piece of legislation in a state that already doesn't allow same-sex marriage. Some people voted no because they didn't want the conversation toward marriage equality to end. Some people voted no because it discriminated against the GLBT community. Some people voted no because they believe in Marriage Equality and this amendment had to be defeated. Some people voted no because they thought they were voting against gay marriage. Some people voted no because they thought it would result in gay marriage.

Some people in our community didn't vote no.

Next, consider the second idea that conflicts with the first, we're being told by our legislators that we're going to wait to continue our progress toward Marriage Equality. We need to focus on jobs. We need to focus on the economy. We need to keep the conversation going. And, from non-legislators, we need to proceed carefully so we can keep control of the legislature.

WHAT?!

Didn't we just stand shoulder-to-shoulder and side-by-side in this fight toward equality and now you want to let the iron get cold?

This is where I have to hold myself in check. The acute cognitive dissonance only lasts as long as I stay suspended here. Yes, we stood side-by-side and shoulder-to-shoulder against the amendment, but yes, it was for different reasons. And, yes, we're back to where we were before this issue was put on the ballot. And, no, I should not assume that everyone who voted no did so as a measure toward Marriage Equality. And, no, we will not agree on what is to be the next important issues to be handled by our state legislature...because standing side-by-side against the amendment actually had nothing to do with the next session of legislation.

Dammit.

Like I said, the acute cognitive dissonance passes when we get to the point of realizing that there were different reasons for voting no in this last election; let's be grateful that so many people did. But, more of the cognitive dissonance will be relieved when someone takes charge of the next step. And, as we consider the next step, we need to keep talking about the possibilities.

I don't know where you are in this process of talking about what happened, where we are now, and what's coming up. I don't blame

Continued on page 61 ➔



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When Did “Science” Become a Dirty Word?

WHEN I was a kid, “Science” brought to mind wonder—the discovery of new things and the explanation of old mysteries. From the Latin *scientia* or *knowledge*, it has roots also in words meaning divide, separate, split. Breaking a given datum down into manageable bits will, if a theory is sound, yield consistent and repeatable results.

Dismissal of scientific process is not confined to modern fundamentalists and creationists. Dr. Ignaz Semmelweis published findings in 1847 showing that hand-washing by doctors drastically reduced maternal deaths from puerperal fever. He was derided and drummed out of the profession, institutionalized in 1865 and beaten to death by guards.

After Pasteur and Lister confirmed germ theory in the 1860s, Semmelweis’s practice gained acceptance—too late for the 47-year-old Semmelweis and for hundreds—perhaps thousands—of women who died unnecessarily in childbirth.

Note the term “germ *theory*.” Evolution is a theory; gravity is a theory, as is electromagnetism. A theory is not a whimsy, a fabrication or an article of faith. The definition given by the American Association for the Advancement of Science is: “A scientific theory is a well-substantiated explanation of some aspect of the natural

world, based on a body of facts that have been repeatedly confirmed through observation and experiment.”

While some insist, through biblical inerrancy, that the earth is only 6000 years old, while scientists date the oldest stone tools to around 2.9-2.7 mya (*million* years ago). The December, 2012 *National Geographic* offers scientific proof that the ancient Peruvians were popping corn for ceremonies 6,700 years ago.

The “Say No to Science” mentality today has the potential to destroy not only women in childbirth, but future generations while denying modern theories such as weather patterns and stem-cell research, leaving unaddressed problems growing exponentially.

I offer this as an observation. Nothing can be solved in 375 words. I urge that we think, and heed Charles Darwin’s own words in the introduction to his *The Descent of Man*:

“It has often and confidently been asserted, that man’s origin can never be known: but ignorance more frequently begets confidence than does knowledge: it is those who know little, and not those who know much, who so positively assert that this or that problem will never be solved by science.” □

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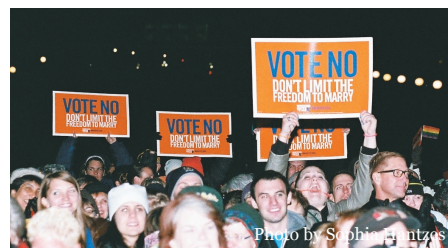


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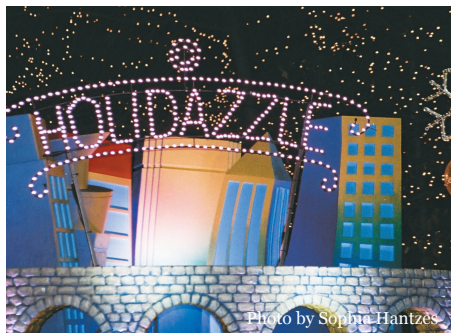


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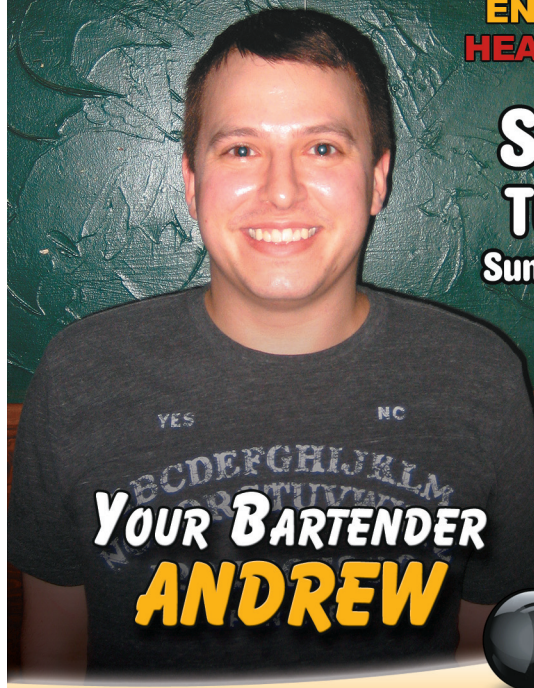
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PERFORMING ARTS

2012 YEAR IN REVIEW



Summer and Smoke. Photo copyright Act One, Too, Ltd

BEST PRODUCTIONS

1. *In The Next Room (or The Vibrator Play)*, The Jungle Theater
2. *Spring Awakening*, Theater Latté Da & University of Minnesota Theatre Arts & Dance
3. *An Ideal Husband*, Walking Shadow Theatre Company
4. *Ragtime*, Park Square Theatre
5. *The Mill*, Workhaus Collective
6. *Crimes of the Heart*, Bloomington Civic Theatre
7. *Compleat Female Stage Beauty*, Walking Shadow Theatre Company
8. *Appomattox*, Guthrie Theater



An Ideal Husband. Photo by Dan Norman

9. *Summer and Smoke*, Theatre in the Round Players
10. (3-way tie) *Independence*, Theatre in the Round Players; *Julius Caesar* (all-female cast), Theatre Unbound; *Where We're Born*, 20% Theatre Company Twin Cities

BEST DRAMA REVIVAL

Dial M for Murder, The Jungle Theater

BEST COMEDY REVIVAL

Happy Birthday, *Wanda June*, Nimbus Theatre

BEST MUSICAL REVIVAL

How The Grinch Stole Christmas, Children's Theatre Company

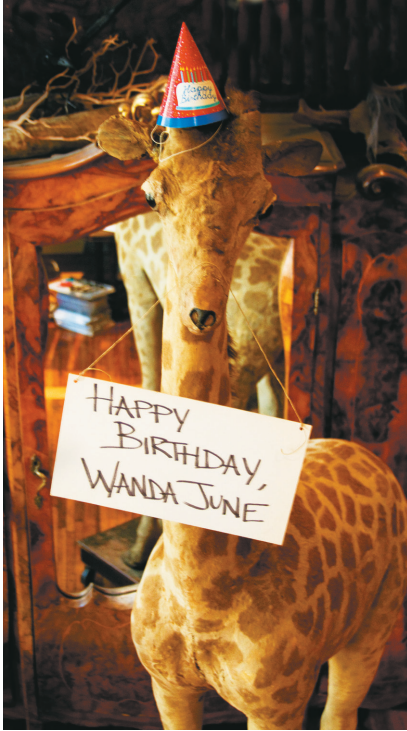
THEATER ARTISTS OF THE YEAR

Christina Baldwin (Actress), *Ragtime*, Park Square Theatre; *In The Next Room (or The Vibrator Play)*, The Jungle Theater; *Roman Holiday*, Guthrie Theater

Denise Prosek (Music Director), *Spring Awakening*, Theater Latté Da & University of Minnesota Theatre Arts & Dance; *How The Grinch Stole Christmas*, Children's Theatre Company



Independence. Photo copyright Act One, Too, Ltd



Happy Birthday, Wanda June. Photo by Josh Cragun

BEST DIRECTOR

Amy Rummenie, *An Ideal Husband*, Walking Shadow Theatre Company

BEST ACTRESS, DRAMA

Jean Wolff, *Independence*, Theatre in the Round Players

BEST ACTRESS, COMEDY

Harriet Harris, *Hay Fever*, Guthrie Theater

BEST ACTRESS, MUSICAL

Christina Baldwin, *Ragtime*, Park Square Theatre

BEST ACTOR, DRAMA

Gavin Lawrence, *Are You Now or Have You Ever Been?*, Carlyle Brown & Company

BEST ACTOR, COMEDY

Kevin Carnahan, *Happy Birthday, Wanda June*, Nimbus Theatre

BEST ACTOR, MUSICAL

David Darrow, *Spring Awakening*, Theater Latté Da & University of Minnesota Theatre Arts & Dance

Continued on page 24 →

ELTON JOHN & TIM RICE'S



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Appomattox. Photo by Allen Brisson-Smith



In The Next Room (Or The Vibrator Play). Photo by Michal Daniel

BEST CROSSGENDER PERFORMANCE

Noe Tallen, *Julius Caesar* (all-female cast), Theatre Unbound

BEST SUPPORTING ACTORS (TIE)

David Brinkley, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Guthrie Theater
James Napoleon Stone, *Killer Joe*, Candid Theater Company

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS AND CLASSICAL PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR
Meri Golden, *Romeo & Juliet*, Theatre Coup D'Etat

BEST CAMEO ACTOR

Richard Ooms, *Appomattox*, Guthrie Theater

BEST CAMEO ACTRESS

Barbara Bryne, *Embers*, Guthrie Theater

Continued on page 26 ➔

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Radiate Live!. Photo by Michal Daniel

BEST VISUAL/PROJECTION DESIGN

Sven Ortel, *Appomattox*, Guthrie Theater

BEST LIGHTING

Jeff Croiter, *Appomattox*, Guthrie Theater

BEST PRODUCTION FROM OUT OF TOWN

Radiate Live!, Pillsbury House

BEST PERFORMANCES FROM OUT OF TOWN

Kathleen Turner & Evan Jonigkeit, *HIGH*, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis at Pantages Theatre

BEST SOLO PERFORMANCE FROM OUT OF TOWN

John Fugelsang, *Guilt: A Love Story*, Pantages Theatre

OUTSTANDING COMEDY REVUE

The Rainbow Election: Mom-mies and Mormons and Gays, Oh My!, Brave New Workshop

SUPERIOR ACHIEVEMENT IN ENSEMBLE ACTING

Steel Kiss, Segue Productions

SUPERIOR ACHIEVEMENT IN NEW PLAYWRITING

Andrea Assaf, Samuel Valdez, *Outside the Circle*, 20% Theatre Company Twin Cities & Pangea World Theater

BEST CHOREOGRAPHY

Carl Flink, *Spring Awakening*, Theater Latté Da & University of Minnesota Theatre Arts & Dance

BEST SOUND DESIGN

David Means, *Meronymy*, Red Eye Theater



How the Grinch Stole Christmas. Photo by Dan Norman

BEST SOLO PERFORMANCE

Sun Mee Chomet, *How to Be a Korean Woman*, Dreamland Arts

MOST ENCHANTING PERFORMANCE

Natalie Tran as Cindy-Lou Who, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, Children's Theatre Company

BEST SET DESIGN

Bain Boehlke, *In The Next Room (or The Vibrator Play)*, The Jungle Theater

BEST COSTUME DESIGN

Michael Krass, *Appomattox*, Guthrie Theater

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I heard a pretty good 2012, with tons of intriguing, enthralling, exciting and entertaining albums issued over the past 12 months. One of my favorite bits of the year is the terrific quality of Twin Cities' based music. So much that I've decided to break the local discs out for their own top 10. These acts showcase a wide range of styles, from traditional country and folk to independent hip-hop to straight-up rock 'n' roll.



LOCAL ALBUM OF THE YEAR

P.O.S. *We Don't Even Live Here*

Things are tough for Stefon Alexander. After all, it's not everyday that a 31-year-old musician has to cancel a national tour because he needs a new kidney. Health issues, however, can't keep P.O.S. out of the studio, as his absolutely terrific new album proves. Short and sharp like the punk rock that informs so much of P.O.S.'s music, *We Don't Even Live Here* is full of rough edges and electronics that break out into heavy-duty beats. As always, Alexander focuses on social and personal issues rather than boasting how tough he is or how many Escalades he may own.

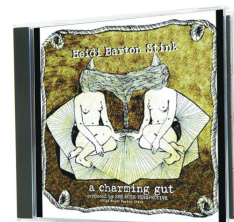


NINE MORE GREAT LOCAL 2012 ALBUMS:

Brother Ali *Mourning in America and Dreaming in Color*

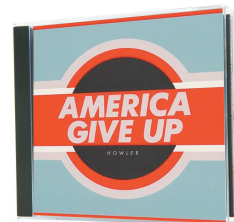


Chastity Brown *Back-Road Highways*
Heidi Barton Stink *A Charming Gut*
Howler *America Give Up*
Polica *Give You the Ghost*
Solid Gold *Eat Your Young*
Trampled by Turtles *Stars and Satellites*
V/A *Twin Cities Funk and Soul Vol. 1*
War//Plague *On a Darker Dawn*



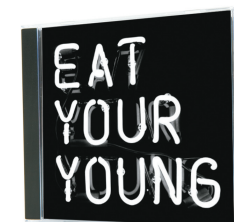
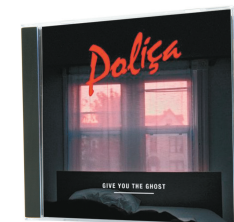
TWO GREAT SORT-OF LOCAL ALBUMS:

Craig Finn *Clear Heart Full Eyes*
Bob Mould *Silver Age*



NON-LOCAL ALBUM OF THE YEAR

Godspeed You! Black Emperor *Allelujah! Don't Bend! Ascend!*
It's been a decade since these Canadians last unleashed their unique twist on modern music. The oddly titled release (then again their last one was *Xanqui U.X.O.*) is based around two epic, instrumental tracks that take the listener on penetrating aural journeys, with a pair of two, shorter drone-like works that accent the sweep of the previous songs. There is nothing conventional about the band: not the instrumentation, not the approach, not the packaging (the vinyl comes pressed on a 12 inch lp and a 7 inch single, meaning there's a lot of swapping going on while playing the album all the way through). It's a band and album that is nearly indescribable, and that makes every listen pure joy.



Continued on page 28 ➔

NINE MORE GREAT NON-LOCAL ALBUMS OF 2012:
Antibalas Antibalas



The Avett Brothers *The Carpenter*
Beach House *Bloom*
Dirty Projectors
Swing Lo, Magellan
Dr. John *Locked Down*
Frank Ocean *Channel ORANGE*
Macklemore and Ryan Lewis
The Heist
Bruce Springsteen *Wrecking Ball*
The XX *Coexist*



Converge *All We Love We Leave Be*
Corrosion of Conformity *Corrosion of Conformity*
Pig Destroyer *Book Burner*



Oiltanker *The Shadow of Greed*



ARTIST I WOULD RATHER NOT HEAR EVER AGAIN:
Lana Del Rey

SONG THAT I NEVER WANT TO HEAR AGAIN:
"We are Young," fun.

THE 2012 VERSION OF HOOTIE AND THE BLOWFISH
Mumford & Sons



10 ALBUMS YOU WOULDN'T THINK THE MUSIC COLUMNIST OF A GLBT MAGAZINE WOULD BE INTO:
Baroness *Yellow & Green*
Column of Heaven
Mission from God



Nachtmystium *Silencing Machine*
Napalm Death *Utilitarian*
Neurosis *Honor Found in Decay*
Off! *Off!*

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YEAR END WRAP-UP

As the lights dim and twinkle, the snow falls softly on the frozen ground and we gather friends and family to mark the passing of another year. This is the time to cast an eye and grumbling stomach back over the year and remark upon the way the dining landscape has changed for the better. This year has been filled with fantastic new food destinations, but these are the three I never want to leave.

BUTCHER & THE BOAR

When I met with Chef Jack Riebel and Peter Botcher in the basement kitchen of what would soon be the Butcher & the Boar, it was clear there was no shortage of ideas. The two were busting out meats like an MC spits rhymes – fast, furious and tasty. They pulled out dishes from the cooler to try. Items like the pickled shrimp and turkey braunschweiger had me swooning. Then, they fired up the grill. You never forget your first Butcher & the Boar footlong.

As soon the doors swung open, they quickly became a hub of delicious activity. It's my favorite place for meeting some of my rowdier friends for bourbon cocktails and a menu stacked with dishes that never miss.

Every inch from the penny laid floor to the meticulously curated beer, wine and booze lists were carefully plotted ahead of time and then quickly tweaked to best serve the downtown denizens.

The menu is filled with hearty fare that pleases just about any palate. Even vegetarians will be pleased with delicious items like their cheddar cheese stuffed grits, cedar planked mushrooms or any of the fish and shellfish dishes. If your people like food, they will find plenty to love at Butcher and the Boar.

One more thing to love was their Pride celebration this summer. I've definitely got a new homebase those mint juleps make a perfect summer day even better.

1121 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis (612)238-8888
www.butcherandtheboar.com



(From top) Jack Riebel; Famous footlong dog; Grassfed beef shortribs; Cheddar jalapeno brats. Photos by Mike Hnida





(From top) Nick Rancone and Thomas Boemer; Ricotta gnocchi; Pork belly.
Photos by Hubert Bonnet



CORNER TABLE

The name and address may have stayed the same, along with their commitment to sustainability; however this is not the staid little bistro that it once was. Everything from ownership to wall color, to a beautiful sign painted on the outside walls is new. Heck, they're even taking reservations on their website! Corner Table might be a familiar name, but the new crew have remade this neighborhood sweet spot into a dining destination.

Nick and Chenny Rancone took ownership earlier this year and along with Chef Thomas Boemer have built their dream. Nick and Chenny have years of experience in the front of house, so they know how to care for their customers. In a setting this intimate, it's easy to feel like newfound friends with the Rancone's and their staff.

Chef Boemer's European-influenced technique results in elegant executions of local ingredients in which he also shares a bit of his sense of humor. Dishes like bacon and eggs featured the best example of what a pork belly can be alongside some perfectly cooked eggs that looked like polenta, spread on toast like pate and tasted like a dream.

While Nick works out fantastic wine lists, he and Thomas will taste and build new menus – often daily. Each dish, each sip – everything building towards a perfectly, blissful bite. The greatest compliment they give is, "This makes me happy." And isn't that what we all want from a dining experience, or life from that matter? Corner Table is a welcome respite of comfort, exquisite flavors and welcoming camaraderie, a place to share a brief moment of pure happiness. ➔

Continued on page 32

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(Clockwise from top left) Thomas Kim & Kat Melgaard, owners of The Left Handed Cook; Asparagus with baby aragula salad and a poached egg; 21 spiced fried chicken; Pulled pork sandwich with spicy slaw. Photos by Hubert Bonnet



THE LEFT HANDED COOK

Thomas Kim and Kat Melgaard blew in from L.A. on a chilly breeze full of punk rock optimism. The two made the decision to flee the traffic-fueled life for the more artistically supportive Minneapolis vibe. They found their restaurant space inside Midtown Global Market and immediately set about changing perceptions of what food from a modest space could be. Kat's killer design aesthetic added elegance and burnished the rough edges into a hip, comfortable little spot with a small counter lit with a little chandelier.

The problem is that Midtown Global Market has always had a fabulous array of great food items. Now, I almost never get my old standbys because the rotating specials on their board are too intriguing. Kim's take on Brussels sprouts have simply ruined all others. A mixture of orange supremes, parmesan cheese, beautifully charred, flaky greens tossed in bacon vinaigrette are just as good as this humble little brassicaceae could be.

Then there is the fried chicken; the best in town. Tempura, crispy crust dashed with seasonings from around the globe that wind up tasting perfectly down home. The poutine quickly unseated my other favorite as the new big daddy beast of the best belly-stretching food in town, fries topped with gravy, kimchee, and an egg just for decadent good measure.

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NEWSY BITS

UNION is up and running. We're very excited about this new venture inside the former Shinders in downtown Minneapolis. Expect to see more in these very pages, very soon. 731 Hennepin Ave, Mpls

World Street Kitchen, the fast-casual concept from the brothers Wadi (who also own Saffron), is open in Uptown. They took all that we love about the truck and then brought it indoors. If you can bear to tear yourself away from the Yum Yum Rice bowl, try the Moroccan spiced fried chicken. C'est YUM. 2743 Lyndale Ave S, Mpls

The **King & I Thai** has taken their final bow. We're sad to see this date night favorite close their doors.

Pierre's Bistro shut their doors in October, but the space won't be dormant for long. Nearby **Broder's** is expected to re-open as a wine bar. 221 West 50th St, Mpls

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VOTE NO was a statewide effort by Minnesotans United for All Families as evidenced by all of the places the organizers, volunteers, and supporters participated in. 1. Coming Out Day Luncheon. 2. Rally at the University of Minnesota. 3. Twin Cities Youth Pride. 4. East Central Minnesota Pride. 5. Coming Out Day Gala. 6. Rochester PrideFest. 7. Minnesota Governor's Pride Reception. 8. Anoka LGBTQ Youth Pride presented by Justin's Gift. 9. South Central Minnesota Pride. 10. Big Gay Race. 11. South Central Minnesota Pride. 12. St. Paul Pride. 13. St. Paul Pride. 14. Big Gay Race. 15. South Central Minnesota Pride. 16. St. Paul Pride.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SOPHIA HANTZES

2 Organization of the Year...



Photo by Sophia Hantzes

7



Photo by Sophia Hantzes

10



Photo by Sophia Hantzes

13



Photo by Sophia Hantzes

14



Photo by Sophia Hantzes

11



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17



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12



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16



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18

lu nteer, and orange and blue signage appeared. 1. At the Saloon with the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus. 2. Quorum's National
ide . 6. Duluth-Superior Pride's Fruit Float. 7. Board Chair Cristine Almeida with Richard Carlbon at the Human Rights Campaign
Gi ft. 11. Minnesota Governor's Pride Reception. 12. Asian Pacific Islanders United for All Families. 13. Minnesota Governor's Pride
16. St. Cloud Pride. 17. Twin Cities Pride. 18. Lavender First Thursday.

A HANTZES AND RANDY STERN



Minnesotans United

For All Families

Interview: Richard Carlbom, Campaign manager

BY ANDY LIEN PHOTOGRAPHS BY SOPHIA HANTZES AND RANDY STERN



Photo by Sophia Hantzes

1



Photo by Sophia Hantzes

2



Photo by Sophia Hantzes

3

Minnesotans United For All Families

Andy Lien: Congratulations, Richard. Lavender Magazine naming Minnesotans United for All Families as Organization of the Year pales in comparison to your victory on Election Day. How are you feeling, a month after Election Day?

Richard Carlbom: It's hard to believe we are only a month past Election Day. I feel excited that so many Minnesotans stood up for our community. This is the state I was born and raised in and it collectively embraced our community. We have more work to do. The conversation didn't end on Election Day, it has really just begun. I was amazed at the number of people I spoke to who recalled really vigorous conversations about why marriage matters—it is about love, commitment and responsibility—while at Thanksgiving Dinner, two and a half weeks AFTER Election Day!

AL: What is the status of Minnesotans United for All Families and its office locations? How many people did you end up having work as employees by the end of the campaign? Volunteers?

We had 186 employees on Election Day, including in-kind staff from our coalition partners. We had more than 40,000 volunteers with us throughout the campaign; 28,000 volunteer shifts were filled in the last week alone! The outpouring of support from volunteers and contributors was astounding. Real Minnesotans empowered themselves to beat this amendment.

AL: What about the staff? Where is everyone? What are you doing now that you're done being manager of a victorious Vote No campaign?

Like most campaigns, staff have disbursed and are looking for their next opportunity to change the world. Many of us will remain very interested in making progress toward equality for the LGBT community by keeping conversations going—myself included!

1. Richard Carlbom, Campaign Manager of Minnesotans United for All Families, speaking at Duluth-Superior Pride 2012.

2. The beginning of Minnesotans United for All Families (l-r): Senator Scott Dibble, Senator Tony Lourey, Monica Meyer (OutFront MN), Donald McFarland, Ann Kaner-Roth (Project 515), Senator John Marty, and Spencer Cronk (Commissioner of Department of Administration).

3. Margaret Hoover, Randy Roberts Potts, and Madeline Koch at Log Cabin Republicans event. Photos by Sophia Hantzes

Continued on page 40 ➔

AL: How was the process of tying up the organization? What did you do to wrap it up?

The process actually continues! In the first three days after Election Day we closed more than 33 offices around Minnesota and gave away most of the furniture to non-profits. Our headquarters closed on November 30th and now most of the finishing work of closing down the current MN United ballot committee will be done by a very small team. There will be a lot of time spent on archiving material to ensure it can be preserved by the Tretter Collection at the U of M and the Minnesota Historical Society. [Editor's Note: As of press time, there has been an indication that MUAF may not be "wrapped up," but will "continue the conversation." This is expected to be more clear by the time this issue is on stands.]

AL: Lavender wrote a story about the formation of Minnesotans United for All Families back in June of 2011, that it was created jointly by Project 515 and OutFront Minnesota. Can you expand on this organizational structure and how it worked?

Minnesotans United for All Families was a coalition formed by Project 515, Outfront MN, the Human Rights Campaign, Freedom to Marry, and the Task Force. The coalition grew to more than 700 organizations representing every walk of Minnesota life—businesses, labor, non-profits, governments, etc. It even included more than 120 faith-based organizations. Really, it is the most impressive coalition ever assembled to beat an amendment in Minnesota and it represents the broad base of support that led to our success.

AL: Your work history is impressive. Can you talk about your career path since your time at St. John's University? When did you join Minnesotans United for All Families as Campaign Manager?

After graduating in May of 2004 from Saint John's, I was elected Mayor [of St. Joseph, Minnesota] in November of 2004. While I was Mayor, I was a regional field director for the MN DFL Party. In 2007, I moved to Mankato to work for US Representative Tim Walz as his political and finance

4. Republican Wheelock Whitney and his wife, former Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice Kathleen Blatz at MUAF fundraiser.

5. State Senator Scott Dibble and State Representative Karen Clark celebrate victory at the Capitol. Photos by Sophia Hantzes

Minnesotans United For All Families



Photo by Sophia Hantzes

4



Photo by Sophia Hantzes

5



Photo by Sophia Hantzes

6



Photo by Sophia Hantzes

Minnesotans United For All Families



Photo by Sophia Hantzes

8

photo by sophia hantzes

director. In 2009, Rep. Walz asked me to be his campaign manager. Following a close win for Rep. Walz, Mayor [Chris] Coleman asked me to join his administration as the communications director for the City of St Paul in 2011. Just seven months later, I was asked to add my name for consideration to be the campaign manager for Minnesotans United for All Families. After a three-round interview process, I was offered the position and accepted, starting work in September of 2011.

AL: How did you strategically go about adding staff to the campaign? Coalition partners? Who were some of your sung and unsung heroes?

One of the key reasons we were successful was the incredible leaders that joined our staff. We strived to hire only the best possible leaders and organizers. We looked for leaders with huge capacity, proven successes in campaigns, and leaders who valued humility. Our staff included Republicans, Democrats, Independents, Greens, and non-political individuals. Our entire staff was incredibly talented. The key to our victory were the thousands of volunteers who they were able to train and empower to take this victory into their own hands.

AL: What demographic groups did MUAF divide the state of Minnesota into?

We focused on identify people who we could count on their no vote based on why marriage matters. We did not focus on groups that were only against amending the constitution. We knew our opposition would use very emotional appeals in an attempt to provoke voters to vote yes—we wanted to counter-balance their emotional argument with our own emotional argument. We did dive deeper into suburban women, young Republican men, and all voters under 30 years old.

AL: What kind of numbers were you throwing around as you considered the state and your demographic groups? How might those groups translate to a wider marriage equality discussion? Well, the number of Minnesotans who support the freedom to marry is growing—fast. Since so many are evolving so quickly,

6. MUAF offices were covered with hearts, each putting forth the message and emotion of love.

7. VOTE NO at Pride Soul Friday.

8. VOTE NO at Pride Night with the Minnesota Lynx. Photos by Sophia Hantzes

Continued on page 42 ➔

we wanted to focus on those who we knew could be persuaded by the emotional arguments from our opposition.

AL: Did you see a dramatic shift in thought as the campaign progressed? Where did you see the most activity and response?

Yes—we saw many Minnesotans evolve on the question of who should have the freedom to marry. Nearly ten percent of the state shifted throughout the campaign. It was amazing to see the impact of our research-driven message and the power of conversation help undecided and conflicted voters unravel the conflict they have on this issue...which allowed them to evolve to a No Vote by Election Day!

AL: We embraced the orange and blue logo and identity of the campaign as soon as it was put into action. Who conceptualized and designed the collateral materials for MUAF? Which types of materials seemed to be most effective? Our Data Manager Scot Covey gets the credit for designing the now iconic image that represents the first state to beat an amendment that would ban marriage for same-sex couples. He is a great guy—and a straight ally. What I like most about Scot's design was its simplicity.

We actually distributed more than 60,000 lawn signs, nearly 40,000 t-shirts, nearly 10,000 wrist bands and 15,000 bumper stickers. It was amazing to see so many want a piece of our brand to show where they stand!

AL: How did you decide how to spend money on advertisements? Was the campaign plan there and you just had to execute it, or did you adjust as you went?

When I was hired as the campaign manager, my first job was to write the campaign plan and present it for approval by the the MN United board of directors. One aspect of the campaign plan is paid media and I worked closely with our communications director and our media team to determine how much to invest, when to invest it, and through which medium to invest. When we got to the end of the campaign, we had to manage cash-flow very carefully. Thankfully, because

9. VOTE NO at the Twin Cities Pride Dyke March.
 10. VOTE NO Flash Mob at Twin Cities Pride.
 11. VOTE NO at the Twin Cities Pride Parade.
 12. VOTE NO in the Twin Cities Pride Parade.
 13. VOTE NO at the Twin Cities Pride Parade.
- Photos by Sophia Hantzes



Photo by Sophia Hantzes



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13



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12

Minnesotans United For All Families

of so much support, we were able to meet and achieve our goals financially.

AL: What role did the television ads and their cross-posting on the Internet play for the campaign?

We focused on message discipline and a layered approach to delivering the message. Voters not only saw our ads, but they heard the same message on the phone from our volunteers, heard it on the radio, got direct mail pieces, saw it on the Internet, and saw it on news reports and newspaper stories through earned media. Our goal was to create a surround-sound type effect for voters on this question. Our television ads were key to our communications strategy because they are the most cost-effective way to deliver a message to voters.

AL: Did there end up being any television ads with GLBT people or couples in them? Why or why not? How were these ads conceived and planned?

The central theme of all of our commercials was why marriage matters and why same-sex couples should have the freedom to marry. We proudly featured LGBT people in many of our videos and in some of our commercials. However, we also know that the people who decided the election were influenced mostly by people they saw in their own situation (other straight people who were not always okay with same-sex couples having the freedom to marry). In order to help them journey or evolve to a no vote, we had to ensure the people delivering the message were a mirror image. The messengers were critical to our success!

AL: Did you expect the support of corporations like General Mills? Celebrities like Vikings player, Chris Kluwe? What impact did they have on the campaign?

We worked hard to engage the business community and other leaders in our community through our coalition work. The statements from General Mills and other businesses showed that this issue was a mainstream issue that should get full and fair consideration by all voters—it was very helpful and a hallmark for future successful campaigns, I believe.

- 14. VOTE NO at the Twin Cities Pride in the Park.
- 15. VOTE NO at the Minnesota State Fair.
- 16. VOTE NO at the Minnesota State Fair.
- 17. VOTE NO at the Minnesota State Fair.

Photos by Sophia Hantzes

Continued on page 44 ➔

Chris Kluwe is simply brilliant. What more can one say? He had a unique one-of-a-kind impact on this campaign for which I am very thankful.

AL: What did you identify as being the biggest challenges to this campaign? How did you address those issues?

The biggest challenge was to build a campaign large enough to capture all the amazing energy out there, harness it, and focus it in the right direction in order to beat this amendment. We accomplished this because we invested early in two key areas. First, we invested in research to help us keep everyone saying the same thing. Second, we invested in an organizing program that could engage volunteers on the ground in their own communities.

AL: What surprised you most during this campaign?

The extent to which straight Minnesotans empowered themselves to take ownership over beating this amendment. They invested their time, their financial resources, and an incredible amount of energy. We could not have beat this without them. And they never stopped!

AL: What sort of criticism did you receive and what was your response to it?

There was a lot of anxiety over the message we chose and the extent to which we worked with faith communities. First, our message was not crafted to resonate with those who were already voting no. We talked about love, commitment and responsibility; the Golden Rule and Freedom. Many wanted us to talk about discrimination and amending the constitution. We knew that failed in 29 other states and we remain focused on the message we saw moving people to vote no in our research. Second, some were unhappy we spent so much time organizing in faith communities because they wanted separation of church and state. We knew, however, that faith was a key reason some voters were conflicted about how they

18. Duluth couple, Fred and Yvonne Peterson, who have been married for 59 years, were featured in the first television ad by Freedom to Marry, supporter of MUAF.

19. Minnesota celebrity Don Shelby hosted an early fundraiser for MUAF, pictured here with Carlhom, Charlie and Julie Zelle, and Megan O'Hara and Mayor R.T. Rybak.

20. Carlhom conversing with HRC President Chad Griffin and Chris Kluwe.

21. Chris Kluwe at final MUAF rally at University of Minnesota.

Photos by Sophia Hantzes

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18



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19



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Minnesotans United For All Families

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should vote. Our faith work was imperative to us winning and I am glad we continued it despite the criticism.

AL: What would have happened on November 7 if the amendment hadn't been defeated?

It would have been a giant setback for the entire state of Minnesota.

AL: Now that the amendment has been defeated, what do you see as being the next steps for Minnesota in the move toward Marriage Equality? What would you hope to see happen in the new legislative session?

The conversation did not end on Election night. It has only just begun. This conversation will continue in all aspects of Minnesota life, including at the state capitol.

AL: What advice would you give to other campaigns who are working either against such proposed legislation or in favor of Marriage Equality?

1. Start early.
2. Hire the best staff, leaders, and organizers—don't settle for second best.
3. Always, in all things you do, deliver a research-driven message. Research is essential to an effective message.
4. Spark a conversation.

AL: What advice would you give to the GLBT community in Minnesota as we move forward?

Let's not limit what we can accomplish by limiting our imaginations. Many in our community never dreamed we could beat this amendment, but we did so because we imagined what needed to happen and then we executed. As a result, we raised more money than most thought possible (but it was almost exactly our first goal as a campaign team). We recruited more volunteers than any other campaign in MN history, but it was in line with what our community organizers has imagined. We stayed on message with more discipline than even I imagined, but it was exactly what our communications team imagined and planned for.

Let's not limit ourselves. What's next?

22. Faith leaders Grant Stevenson and Javen Swanson at the State Fair.

23. Catholics walking in the Pride Parade against the amendment.

24. Jewish people of faith in VOTE NO apparel walking in the Pride Parade.

25. Quaker support at the United for our Future rally at the Capitol.

Photos by Sophia Hantzes

Continued on page 48 ➡



Photo by Sophia Hantzes



Photo by Sophia Hantzes



Photo by Sophia Hantzes



Photo by Sophia Hantzes



the Reason for the Season!

Written by Mark Halla



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"Rooted In Integrity And Founded On Faith..."

Each Christmas we celebrate
the Savior's birth,
this tiny infant of infinite worth.

Born in a manger so meek and so mild,
but this little baby was no ordinary child.

He saved the world "once for all",
redeeming our lives, He took the fall.

But Satan was no match for God as man,
Jesus rose from the dead,
victory in His hand!

This Christmas I pray that of all the
gifts you receive,
you will accept the one that's totally free.

His birth and death go hand in hand,
celebrate the baby but accept the Man!

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OK, YOUR NAME on a Hennepin Avenue light pole banner for the month of June. Banner personalization makes a great holiday gift and allows you to honor someone in your life, thank or recognize a person or organization, and show your support of the greater GLBT community. Each personalization comes with a certificate suitable for gifting.

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1. VOTE NO vehicle wraps were seen around the state. Photo by Randy Stern. 2. VOTE NO Vehicle Wrap at the State Capitol. Photo by Randy Stern. 3. Richard Herod III finishes the vehicle wrap campaign with a Thank You. Photo by Sophia Hantzes.



Photo by Randy Stern

1



Photo by Randy Stern

2



Photo by Sophia Hantzes

3

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Tuesday, December 25 • Christmas Day
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Sunday, December 30
Worship Service • 8:15 & 11:00 am

Sunday, January 6
Epiphany Worship Service • 8:15 am
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DFL's Big Gay Farce Feedback

Wendy Gaskill via Email:

Dear Editor,

I was extremely upset reading this opinion piece in your magazine. This inflammatory article has no place in your magazine. This is an excellent example of how GLB folks know so well how to alienate our allies. Have you forgotten all the work our allies have done for us during this Fall election?

The Democrats want to take the time to build a long-term majority in our legislature and then will decide what social agenda items to put forth. I am confident that gay marriage will be legal in our state within this decade.

Remember the Republicans put forth these two amendments in an effort to get out their base and instead it got out our Democratic base.

An opinion piece like this can really divide a community. Very poor judgment, Lavender.

**WENDY GASKILL
MINNEAPOLIS, MN**

Larry Barthel via Facebook:

Though there may be evidence of lawmaker caution in "pushing too hard" right at this moment (the amendment mostly failed through abstaining votes and the fact that many felt amending the constitution was "going a step too far" - neither which of these indicate that there is actual support *for* gay marriage to become legal), I don't see any evidence in the article to come to the conclusion that the DFL only sided with the Vote NO campaign to keep the gay votes on the DFL side.

This is similar to the conclusion drawn in the movie "Expelled" starring Ben Stein. He leaps from his findings that Intelligent Design (i.e. biblical Creationism) is universally rejected by credible scientists, to the paranoid conclusion that there must obviously be some kind of conspiracy against Intelligent Design (rather than the fact that ID itself is a flawed, unscientific proposal based upon fantasy/supernatural influence in the biological

evolution of mankind).

I think it is ok to express caution as we head into the realm of trying to get Gay Marriage approved in MN. I don't think expressing such caution indicates that lawmakers are unwilling to go the extra step (and the conclusion that the only thing that separates gays from voting Republican is the Democratic support of Gay Marriage in Minnesota), and I don't think expression of such caution is in any way indicative of some kind of strange, X-Files-esque conspiracy.

Jaime Stoeckel via Facebook:

I don't have any very profound answers to this article except to say that it comes as no surprise that politicians all have their own agenda and that in an election year that agenda is to be re-elected. In regards to proceeding with caution on legalizing gay marriage so as to not alienate people or offend anyone, I find that position offensive. The arguments for legal recognition of gay marriage are legitimate. No person with even the slightest bit of integrity can argue the financial and legal need and reasons for recognizing same sex marriage. These are elected officials that we put into office to represent us. Their sole job is to represent our position in government and if they don't like that then they need to step down. It is flat out time for change. Revolution does not occur amongst pacifists who are more concerned about overplaying a "social issue" or offending somebody. Revolution occurs amongst people who have been oppressed and are tired of waiting for some one else to save them. It is when we who are affected stand up and do what it takes to make our own lives better. Now seems just as good a time as any to keep on going. If any of this offends you... Good... DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!!!!

Wendy Gaskill via Website:

I am so disappointed at Lavender's posting of this piece. The alliances built in this

recent election, the taking back of the legislature was so encouraging. Last week it was all about thanking our allies, now this week, LET'S SLAP THEM IN THE FACE. There is more to life than gay marriage. DFL wants to build a long term majority in the legislature that will ensure Minnesota will stay the liberal state it has been and can be again. I am confident gay marriage will be in place before the end of this decade.

Response

Brett Stevens via Website:

I'm sorry you got that from my account. I just believe the past history of DFL action and the current attitude isn't conducive to changes in the law. I believe in accountability of our officials. Their past isn't rosy. Thanks for your comment.

BRETT

Jeff via Website:

A LOT has changed since the DFL of 1997 fwiw.

I don't think it's necessarily fair to hold their stances towards same sex marriage 15 years ago and to try and say the current DFL are exactly the same.

Also, what other major parties are even willing to be open to the dialog?

What I gathered from your piece, is you think that gays will jump the DFL ship? To where? You can't honestly be insinuating that they will side with the GOP?

What many don't realize, is even many Democrats are still slowly coming around on the issue of gay marriage. From friends and family I spoke to, many voted No morreso because they didn't feel putting a ban in the MN constitution was right, not exactly that they want to pass full marriage equality laws just yet.

There's building on momentum, and there's rushing things... You don't get a second shot at a first impression, so I say take the necessary time and actions needed to ensure a victory. □

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“Earnest Money:” Repeal DOMA Now!

SOME HAVE commented my article “The DFL’s Big Gay Farce” is too dismissive of Minnesota Democrats’ efforts for same-sex marriage. They argue it is too difficult and politically perilous for the victorious DFL party to enact same-sex marriage benefits so soon after the rousing defeat of the marriage amendment to the state constitution. We need to wait, garner more support, and work harder than ever to change the political landscape and create conditions for the eventual passage of same-sex marriage in this state.

I don’t think that is true, but in the spirit of compromise and fairness I will proffer this deal.

Repeal the state DOMA law as a kind of “down payment” proving the DFL’s good intentions in the matter. It wouldn’t be difficult. It wouldn’t be that big of a deal and besides, with a DFL controlled state house and senate and governor, it should be a cinch.

Here is the dilemma as Strib columnist Lori Sturdevant explains it from November 17, 2012.

“But does that mean Minnesota is ‘close to legalizing gay marriage’?”

It’s certainly closer than it was a year ago. But my bet is that the new DFL majorities in the House and Senate will be in no hurry to take up a repeal of the state’s Defense of Marriage Act, the statutory same-sex marriage ban that’s been on the books since 1997.”

Sturdevant seems to be under the impression that same-sex marriage and the state DOMA law are one in the same. *Au contraire*. She has conflated two different issues within the same argument. The state DOMA law, or Defense of Marriage Act, is different from legalizing same-sex marriage. The Minnesota legislature could repeal

DOMA itself and still not enact same-sex marriage. Let’s go to the Minnesota Legislative Library for the history of it.

“The *Baker v. Nelson* decision (291 Minn. 310, 191 N.W.2d 185) in 1971 held that Minnesota Statutes prohibited marriages between same-sex partners. The case was appealed to the United States Supreme Court. They issued a one sentence dismissal of the appeal (409 U.S. 810, 34 L Ed 2d 65, 93 S Ct 37; October 10, 1972) that stated “The appeal is dismissed for want of a substantial federal question.” Another significant event was the passage of Laws of Minnesota 1977, Chapter 441, sec. 1. It amended Minnesota Statutes chapter 517.01 which included the phrase “Marriage, so far as its validity in law is concerned, is a civil contract.” To the end of this sentence they added the words “between a man and a woman.”

But, this isn’t the state DOMA law at all. This was a change in the law that made marriage only “between a man and a woman.” The state DOMA law is an entirely different thing.

“In 1997, the Minnesota Legislature passed its own version of what has been referred to as the Defense of Marriage Act (Laws of Minnesota 1997, Chapter 203, Article 10). The governor approved it on June 2, 1997. This act clarified that “lawful marriage may be contracted only between persons of the opposite sex” and went on to specifically prohibit “marriage between persons of the same sex” (Minnesota Statutes chapter 517.01 and 517.03).”

Let’s examine what Article 10 prohibits:

“(4) A marriage between persons of the same sex. (b) A marriage entered into by persons of the same sex, either under com-

mon law or statute, that is recognized by another state or foreign jurisdiction is void in this state and contractual rights granted by virtue of the marriage or its termination are unenforceable in this state.”

So, if the Minnesota legislature repealed the state’s DOMA law, it wouldn’t make same-sex marriage legal in the state. They could leave the earlier law in place that restricts marriage to being “between a man and a woman.”

There would be no same-sex marriage “civil contracts” issued by the state, but would allow people married outside this jurisdiction to have their status accepted by courts. In other words, if my partner and I ran off and got married in Iowa or New York, we could have a legal marriage, just not one recognized by Minnesota. Our state courts could use that status as “married” when considering legal conflicts.

It’s not ideal, but it would be a kind of “layaway plan” proving the DFL’s good intentions regarding the LGBT community. The DFL would then demonstrate they appreciate Minnesota United for All Families’ efforts at getting them elected.

It would be like earnest money on a piece of property. This would show they are willing to repeal a piece of legislation that is restrictive to gays and lesbians who get married elsewhere while at the same time leave same-sex marriage off the table. DFLers could argue they didn’t make gay marriage the law of the land. They simply showed “good faith” to valued allies. Then the LGBT community could see the Minnesota Democrats were truly committed to our values.

It’s the least they could do, the very least. But it would be a start. ■

Three of Four Top Elected Minnesota Politicians Comment on the Marriage Debate

Lavender posed the following questions to four of the top elected politicians regarding GLBT Marriage Rights and 515 other laws negatively affecting the GLBT community. Read their answers here.

GOVERNOR MARK DAYTON

Since the GLBT community was instrumental in getting the Democratic Party elected into control of both Houses of the Legislature:

1. On precisely what day are you going to tell the Democratic Leadership in the Minnesota Senate and House of Representatives that you will publicly encourage them to immediately pass a repeal of the Minnesota Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and that you will sign it immediately upon passage, if they vote to repeal it?
2. After that, on precisely what day will you publicly encourage the Democratic Leadership in the Minnesota Senate and House of Representatives to pass a new law allowing for GLBT people to be married in the State of Minnesota?
3. After that, on precisely what day will you publicly encourage the Democratic Leadership in the Minnesota Senate and House of Representatives to pass a new law allowing for GLBT people to be married in the State of Minnesota?

Governor Dayton's Press Secretary Katharine Tinucci responded on Thursday, November 29, with the following: "Thanks for the email. We are focused on preparing the governor's budget proposal and tax reform proposal at this time."

Press Secretary Tinucci and Governor Dayton were then offered to have the deadline extended to Monday afternoon, December 3.

Press Secretary Tinucci responded on Friday, November 30: "I cannot imagine I will be able to answer your questions by Monday. If any of the things you ask about happen this month, I will be sure to let you know in advance."

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER-DESIGNATE TOM BAKK

Since the GLBT community was instrumental in getting the Democratic Party elected into control of the Minnesota Senate:

1. On precisely what day are you going to repeal the Minnesota Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in the Democratic-controlled Senate?
2. After that, precisely on what day are you going to start drafting laws allowing for full and equal rights to the GLBT community with regard to marriage in the State of Minnesota?
3. After that, on precisely what day are you going to start drafting laws removing the 515 laws currently on the books remaining which discriminate against the GLBT community in the State of Minnesota?

Senator Bakk responded: "Minnesotans clearly rejected an effort to put a narrow definition in our constitution, and they affirmed some very basic, widely shared values. As we look ahead to the many challenges facing the legislature in 2013, there are certain to be renewed discussions at the Capitol on marriage policy, as well as the wide range of statutes that fall short of recognizing all Minnesota families, regardless of how they are defined."

Bakk continues: "Ultimately, elected leaders look to their constituents to guide their legislative priorities, and the discussions occurring in communities across the state will shape the debate inside the Capitol. I look forward to working with the GLBT community and all Minnesotans ready to work together to build a better state for our kids and grandkids."

SPEAKER OF THE MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES-DESIGNATE PAUL THISSEN

Since the GLBT vote was instrumental in getting the Democratic Party elected into control of the Minnesota House of Representatives:

1. On precisely what day are you going to repeal the Minnesota Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives?
2. After that, on precisely what day are you going to start drafting laws allowing for full and equal rights to the GLBT community with regard to marriage in the State of Minnesota?
3. After that, on precisely what day are you going to start drafting laws removing the 515 laws currently on the books remaining which discriminate against the GLBT community in the State of Minnesota?

Representative Thissen responded: "The defeat of the constitutional amendment was amazing—a watershed moment in our state. The defeat would not have occurred without a long campaign focused on one-on-one conversations between Minnesotans about their notions of marriage, family, and equality. The "No" vote meant that Minnesotans were not ready to stop that conversation cold. Our job is now to continue the conversation; a conversation that cannot happen only inside the walls of the State Capitol. I remain ultimately hopeful that those conversations will result in progress toward marriage equality."

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MAJORITY LEADER-DESIGNATE ERIN MURPHY

Since the GLBT vote was instrumental in getting the Democratic Party elected into control of the Minnesota House of Representatives:

1. On precisely what day are you going to repeal the Minnesota Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives?
2. After that, precisely on what day are you going to start drafting laws allowing for full and equal rights to the GLBT community with regard to marriage in the State of Minnesota?
3. After that, on precisely what day are you going to start drafting laws for the 515 laws currently on the books remaining which discriminate against the GLBT community in the State of Minnesota?

Representative Murphy responded: "First of all, I was very happy with the result of the constitutional amendments on Election Day. What Minnesotans said is that we don't want to stop having this conversation in our state about marriage and about equality. If the amendment had passed, that conversation would have ended."

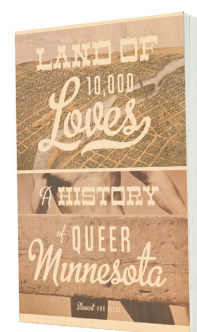
Murphy continues: "It is important for this conversation to continue, not just in the walls of the State Capitol, but throughout the state. Legislators will be a part of that discussion and that means spending time with Minnesotans about their views on fairness, equality and the priorities for our state moving forward. I look forward to those conversations and our work ahead."

Please note that all respondents failed to answer the precise questions put to them.

A world map with a grid overlay, showing the locations of the five study sites. The locations are marked with red circles containing numbers: 1 in Mexico, 2 in Egypt, 3 in Spain, 4 in Italy, and 5 in Brazil.



Land of 10,000 Stories: An Interview with Stewart Van Cleve



Stewart Van Cleve's *Land of 10,000 Loves: A History of Queer Minnesota* offers a distillation of over 100 years of material on the state's gay background. Van Cleve, former assistant curator of the Jean-Nikolaus Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies at the University of Minnesota, recently discussed his herculean task with *Lavender*.

Thanks in great part to Jean-Nikolaus Tretter's efforts, there is an enormous amount of preserved material concerning Minnesota's gay history. Would you talk a bit about the collection and how you how you tackled it?

The Tretter Collection is one of the world's largest LGBT repositories; it was profoundly intimidating. It was also an absolute mess. Tretter would be the first to tell you that he is a collector first, a linguist second, and an organizer somewhere after that. In fact, when I first started working there, entire segments of the archive were blocked off by boxes stacked up to my waist.

I am a tremendous fan of simplicity, process, and order. I set to cleaning up the archive and putting everything in a rightful place. As I broke the work up into manageable pieces, I continually encountered names, places, and events that were unfamiliar: "Ashley Rukes," "Gay House," "Foxy's," etc. I saw an incredibly vast [amount] of historic information that was at risk of being forgotten.

10,000 Loves is amazingly accessible. How did you set things out so that the book might be, in part, a springboard for future works?

I loved reading all of Minnesota's old LGBT newspapers—*Equal Time*, the *GLC Voice*, *Focus Point*, and others—and I became enraptured with the journalistic style.

At its best, the style is fair, balanced, and to the point. So the book is an assemblage of short articles about people, places, or events from the past that individually read like newspaper articles, but can collectively serve as a serious contribution to American history. It can be read from cover-to-cover, or without any direction at all.

So the book can be read several ways. It can be read as entertainment—a collection of amazing stories that all happen to be true. It can also be read as an illustrated guide to the Tretter Collection's holdings. For scholars, it can be read as a compendium of information that leads to many new questions that have yet to be answered.

What percentage of the material is still to be tapped?

If you sat down and started to consume all of the Tretter Collection's holdings—every newspaper, every photograph, every book—you would be very old before you finished. This is because the archive continues to collect material. I stopped working there a few years ago, and it is already full of material I don't recognize. This doesn't even take other historical resources—such as Quatrefoil Library—into account!

What most would you most like *Lavender* readers to draw from 10,000 Loves?

I would like my readers to find their own lives and memories reflected in this book. Sometimes we convince ourselves that we are destined for the wayside of history. We think that only "important" people are part of history, or that someone else is destined to preserve it. But everyone's memories are important, and everyone has the capacity to save the past from disappearing. In fact, sometimes the most mundane experiences become the most riveting histories.

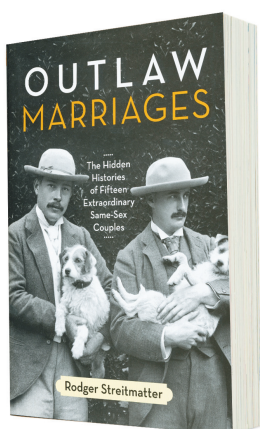
Take, for example, the old Gateway Dis-

trict. By the 1940s, it was a riverfront slum that spread from the Hennepin Avenue Bridge and the Third Avenue Bridge to the Courthouse and the Gay 90s. For decades, the Gateway was where the city's first gay bars operated, until the entire area was obliterated during an urban renewal project. As a result of the destruction, most of the Gateway's queer history has been forgotten. I hope that my readers see value in the memories that survived the Gateway's destruction, and draw a connection to the value and the fragility of their own memories.

What would you say to young readers who might say, "That's old stuff—why should I care about that?"

Well, I'm twenty-four, so I'm not sure if I have enough distance from youth to have a perspective on it! But I have certainly encountered dismissive sentiments about our local past. We should care about our history because it adds such a great deal of meaning to what we experience in the present. One of the most comforting statements in the English language is one that has particular resonance with our community: "You are not alone." In the present, it means that there are other people, all over the world, who are like us. It makes us feel less strange, less different, and connected to something that is broader and greater than ourselves.

Knowledge of a documented history adds further depth to our lives. Not only are we not alone today, but we are not alone in the broader context of time. Too often, our community is cast as superficial, meaningless, and transient. The anti-gay movement is particularly keen on presenting an interpretation of "tradition" that excludes our lives and our loves. This book proves that we are inextricably tied into the history of our region. We are part of the tradition, not an aberration from it. ■



OUTLAW MARRIAGES: THE HIDDEN HISTORIES OF FIFTEEN EXTRAORDINARY SAME-SEX COUPLES

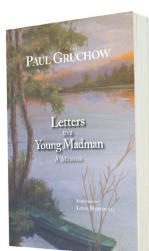
Roger Streitmatter
Beacon Press
\$26.95

Cultural historian Streitmatter demonstrates, through the lives of fifteen same-sex couples, that gays and lesbians have led not just ordinary, but extraordinary lives, enriching our country in poetry and playwriting education, social work and film. One example: In 1885, Martha Carey Thomas, dean of faculty at Bryn Mawr College, and later college president, created the first graduate program in the United States to admit women students. Other “hidden histories” couples include Walt Whitman and Peter Doyle; Greta Garbo and Mercedes Acosta; Frank Merlo and Tennessee Williams; James Baldwin and Lucien Happersberger; Ismail Merchant and James Ivory. A wide range of personalities who loved and supported one another, some for upwards of half a century. The couples’ lives are fascinating, and their gifts to society eye-opening.



ANOTHER DEAD REPUBLICAN: A TOM & SCOTT MYSTERY
Mark Zubro
MLR Press
\$14.99

Tom Mason and Scott Carpenter (*Everyone's Dead But Us, One Dead Drag Queen*) are awakened by a midnight call: Tom's sister Veronica announces that her husband Edgar Grum is dead. Murdered. Shot at a family reelection party. “I hated Edgar,” is Tom's first thought, but he loves Veronica, and Veronica, for unfathomable reasons, loved Edgar. So Tom and Scott are off to Wisconsin, where Mother Grum is the County Clerk of Harrison County and runs her fiefdom—and her family—with an iron fist. Veronica come under suspicion, Grum-controlled police goons try to oust her protectors, until a locked room with damning documents turns the tide. Up until the finale, Grum matriarch embodies Kipling's “The female of the species is more deadly than the male.”



LETTERS TO A YOUNG MADMAN: A MEMOIR
Paul Grouchow
Levine Publishing
\$14.99

Paul Grouchow was the author of seven lyrical books including *Journal of a Prairie Year*, *The Necessity of Empty Places*, and *Boundary Waters: The Grace of the Wild*. He also suffered for decades from mental illness, attempting suicide several times and enduring incarceration in mental hospitals. In 2003, he began this memoir, to chronicle his own experiences and to de-stigmatize the mentally ill. Grouchow writes lyrically, cogently, wryly—and wittily—about his unrelenting depression. In “Professionals 2,” Grouchow describes one treatment option as “another downward step in my spectacular plunge from competency into official madness.” Grouchow's compelling prose enlightens much as initiate Temple Grandin shines light into the closed world of autism. On February 22, 2004, Grouchow did commit suicide, but bequeathed this valuable testament.



F. SCOTT FITZGERALD: FOOL FOR LOVE
Scott Donaldson
University of Minnesota Press
\$19.95

This reissue of Donaldson's biography is well worth a reading—or rereading if you caught it first in 1983. His examination of the talented, tragic and frequently stereotyped Fitzgerald is not a linear biography, but explores two themes—love and class—that inform Fitzgerald's own life and work. His in-depth psychological exploration of these themes in Fitzgerald's life gives the reader a fresh vantage point from which to explore the writings. Born in St. Paul to the dapper yet impecunious Edward and the dour, forbidding Mollie, young Scott never felt he was “of” his family, but belonged rather in some higher, and more rarified, plane. Always the outsider, even among his Princeton classmates Fitzgerald brought his fears and aspirations directly into his novels and stories.



RYAN BROWN is Mr. Minneapolis Eagle 2013

YEAR AFTER year, the Mr. Minneapolis Eagle contest has been a fun and hot event that packs the bar to capacity. This year's version continued that tradition with four great contestants, seven judges (including out-of-town judges from Indiana and Iowa) and a big crowd that was ready to have fun.

The action started on Friday night, Nov. 9, with a meet-the-contestants event in the Minneapolis Eagle part of the bar complex, followed on Saturday afternoon (Nov. 10) by the judges' private interviews with the contestants.

Saturday evening's contest and show was held in the Bolt Underground. The contestants were introduced during the traditional Keg Walk: holding a beer keg above his head, each contestant worked his way through the crowd from the back of the bar to the stage at the front of the bar. Once they reached the stage they were introduced by emcee Brent Fourre, who was assisted by ASL interpreter Richard Herod.

The contestants were Jake Jacobson, a sandblasting artist who sported a pair of jeans with the image of a chain sandblasted on them; Karri Plowman, leather crafter and co-owner of Twin Cities Leather; Tommy Rosengren, photographer and writer; and Ryan Brown, businessman and bicycle aficionado.

Next to be introduced were the evening's judges: Sam Carlisle, representing the Atons of Minneapolis; Dan Beach, Mr. Minneapolis Eagle 2007; Jayson Glynn, Mr. Minneapolis Eagle 2011 and also a member of the Atons; Derek Harley, Mr. Minneapolis Eagle 2012; Ron Kautz, Mr. 501 Eagle 2012, from Indianapolis; Jeremy Morris, Mr. Iowa Leather 2012, from Des Moines; and your humble columnist.

The evening was, to a certain extent, a Mr. Minneapolis Eagle reunion of sorts. In addition to the past Mr. Minneapolis Eagle title-holders who were judging, the contest coordinator was Gregg White, Mr. Minneapolis Eagle 2003 –assisted by Nick Pavlik as contestant coordinator/Den Daddy– and the



The contestants in the Mr. Minneapolis Eagle 2013 contest. Left to right: Karri Plowman (first runner-up), Ryan Brown (Mr. Minneapolis Eagle 2013), Jake Jacobson and Tommy Rosengren. Photo by Steve Lenius.

evening's DJ was Todd Leek, Mr. Minneapolis Eagle 2000. The contest was sponsored, of course, by EagleBoltBar owner Ed Hopkins.

The judges returned to their tables and the contestants were again brought onstage for the Q&A portion of the contest. This year's questions included serious political questions about the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, marriage equality and access to health care, as well as lighter questions concerning dungeon equipment, experiences at past International Mr. Leather weekends, and leather Christmas trees.

The final judged portion of the contest, the Erotic Fantasy, included a description of the various types of men needed for the perfect fantasy orgy, as well as tales of sex in a dungeon, at the office and in a storage unit.

While the judges' scores were being tallied, Mr. Minneapolis Eagle 2012 Derek Har-

ley gave an emotion-packed and heartfelt stepping-aside speech. At one point Harley was joined by his partner, Josh, who had been literally carried above the heads of the crowd and lifted onto the stage. The emotional high of that moment was later countered by a bit of mischief: At the end of Harley's speech, some of his title-holder brothers held up signs that spelled out "W-U-Z-Z-Y," a term of endearment for someone who is no longer a current title-holder.

It was right around midnight when the contest results were announced: Karri Plowman was named first runner-up, and Ryan Brown was named Mr. Minneapolis Eagle 2013.

Brown will represent The Minneapolis Eagle and Minnesota leather community in the 34th annual International Mr. Leather competition (www.imrl.com), May 24-27, 2013 (Memorial Day weekend) in Chicago. □



The Other L Word

THE SUBJECT at Sunday Buddhism was “calming the mind”—how to handle fears and worries that pop into your brain multiple times a day. The guiding teacher, Tim, opened the floor to questions after his lecture.

From far left field, an early thirty-something woman asked, “What about dealing with loneliness?”

It was simple, yet profound. A wave of hurt rippled through the room. Even Buddhists don’t customarily expect that degree of self-honesty.

Tim’s response was classic Buddhism-101: “You have to lean into loneliness. It is reality.”

“Reality?” You can say that again.

How many of us are lonely? I realize that “lonely” is something separate from “alone,” but you can’t tumble to one without the other. I know this because I’ve lived both human conditions.

Before I transitioned to Ellen, I was married. My wife and I were deeply in love. Transitioning eventually became inevitable, meaning that I would have to leave my soul mate. It was how things had to be—seventeen years of therapy made that clear.

Sure, I understood that I might be alone afterwards, living as Ellen. I even thought I might feel lonely for a while.

However, I never imagined I’d be alone for eight years. That’s what it’s been. At this point, “alone” has morphed into “loneliness,” and I have no idea when it will end, if ever.

Of course, I’m not alone, so to speak. Statistics indicate that close to 20% of the population pegs itself as “lonely” at any given time. Much of the loneliness has to do with factors like divorce (check), age (check), and bad health (thankfully, not a check). Some experience situational loneliness that quickly resolves. Others will be chronically lonely. As in forever.

It’s good to know that many are lonely like me—after all, there’s the old saying, “misery loves company.” Still, that doesn’t do much toward filling the empty side of my bed or the seat at the dinner table opposite where I sit.

Certainly, there are some distinct advantages to navigating the world by one’s self. What movie to see? I don’t have to wrestle with someone else over whether it’ll be a chick flick or macho action film. Spend hours cleaning the condo? I alone (damn, there’s that word again) get to mess it up. Don’t forget the laundry and dirty dishes—there’s no one to add to that, either.

And bad habits? I’ve got no reason to hide them or to change. Throw in that I can run naked through my condo (not a pretty sight or very long run, I can assure you), and it sounds like loneliness might not be so bad after all.

On the other hand, Christmas is two weeks away. For some of us, the holidays are tough and another big notch in the loneliness belt.

It’s just that I’m a lover. I was very good at

loving another and I miss being loved back. Hell, I miss sex. Call me human.

Maybe just call me?

Don’t get me wrong—I’m very lucky and have much to be grateful for. I have two daughters who love me, even as Ellen. My baby brother cherishes me. I’ve been best friends with a guy since eighth grade who’s made me a part of his family and who won’t let three days go by without calling.

Most of all, I have *me*, Ellen. Living now as my true self, while lonely, is nothing in comparison to the deep pain that I experienced when I lived in the wrong gender.

I admire the woman who admitted to her loneliness on that Sunday. As a society, we’re often afraid to concede the obvious. We make busy time for ourselves without actually sitting and acknowledging loneliness. It’s simply not fashionable. Thus, we fill our lives with technology and toys, and Facebook postings, hoping that those things make up for intimate human contact and the ability to giggle with a lover.

When I think about it—and I do, trust me—my teacher, Tim, is actually right. We need to lean into the reality that we are both alone and lonely. It’s also reality that there’s no one but ourselves who can generate happiness or peace of mind. Looking to someone else for our happiness is destined to make us suffer—another Buddhist phrase.

I only wish I could completely believe that. □

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FROM THE EDITOR

Continued from page 8

you if you're in the same place I was when I was approached with the proclamation that Marriage Equality has been put on the back burner. You might disagree that it has been, you might agree that it should be, you might be in the same place I was and want to say, "stop talking right now." I understand.

We can't stop talking right now. As the only media outlet dedicated to this GLBT community, we have got to keep talking.

Okay, I'll say it: We have to "keep the conversation going."

I don't like what we say sometimes. Did I want to read what Brett Stevens wrote about "The DFL's Big Gay Farce" in the last issue? That was rough. But, it was not inaccurate. If something presented as fact was untrue, I'll publish a correction. If it's a conclusion or opinion you believe to be untrue, that's different. Conclusions are up for debate, but researched facts are facts. We're publishing all of the Letters to the Editor that we received in response to the commentary and you can see for yourself that the responses span the spectrum as far as what should happen next. We're not in agreement. And this is why we're going to keep talking. Brett and I probably would not be on the same political float in a parade, but I appreciate and respect his perspectives. He goes so far as to actually provoke the bear, or donkey in this case. I'd agree that that donkey needs some prodding.

And, he followed up that piece by presenting in this issue what a logical next step would be: Minnesota needs to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act. Read what he says, the piece may ease some of the tension as far as what can be done almost immediately to keep us moving toward Marriage Equality.

I remember what it was like when General Mills stood up against the amendment. I remember the euphoria of Cheerios being on our side. General Mills gave its reasons for voting no and they fall within the many that I listed earlier. After General Mills opposed the amendment, it seemed easier for other corporations and groups to follow suit. It blazed the trail, it took the heat. Nobody will forget the socio-historical statement and what it did for this fight. Now, I'd say we're looking for our first trailblazer in this next step toward Marriage Equality, and whoever comes out swinging with the right research-driven message will get a groundswell of support. If the extremely well-attended OutFront Minnesota Equality & Justice Summit on December 1 is any indication, we're ready to continue to move forward.

Because that's what we want, right? To move forward?

I want to congratulate and thank you all for this amazing year. I wish you and yours the best over the holidays and through the new year. Your readership and your advertising keep this platform going and I can't wait to see what the next year will bring.

With thanks,

Andy □

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LAVENDER LENS | Sophia Hantzes

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Back To Work!

WELL, PEEPS, I've finally started my new novel. I know no one is waiting for this book, except, maybe my publisher. But that's just because the publisher kindly gave me a small advance a few years ago, and need to balance their books or do something else boring with numbers to justify their strange faith in me. What's my new book about (nobody asked, ever)? Well, all I can tell you at this point is that it's a potboiler. That's what my publisher wants. "Make it a potboiler!" she requested. "Those still sell."

"So, you'd like the plot to revolve around someone cooking something.....in a pot?" I asked in my best lilting, I-have-no-idea-what-I'm-talking-about tone.

"Just finish the damned thing," she said with the deep sigh that closes each of our conversations.

As many of you know, my first novel, *Dateland*, was a huge success! (OK, that's sarcasm. If I were a better writer, I wouldn't have to explain that to you.) That's why it's taken me so long to pen my sophomore (or sophomoreic) effort. My first book was much too good and I fear that I can't ever equal it. (Ummm....that's sarcasm again.)

Here's the real reason why I've waited

four years to write another book. The first two years following the release of the novel were a dark period. They coincided with a nasty breakup (my fault, as everyone loves to remind me) and while I should have used my villainous energies to pound out snappy prose, I instead chose to construct a puffy protective shell around my formerly slim frame through overeating and drinking. Then, after escaping the depression, I spent the next two years watching every mind-numbing *Real Housewives* franchise. This, I argued, was very instructional in terms of character development in my new novel.

"Only if you plan on writing about 40-year-old women who yank on each others' hair weaves every 10 minutes," my girlfriend, Wendy, said.

"Oooh, good idea!" I said, jotting the idea in the notebook I carry around to record all my great ideas! I recently flipped through the notebook and saw that its pages are filled with reminders to pick up wine and snacks. There were a few notes about the new book, but most were unintelligible and probably scribbled when drunk and/or on a sugar high. There's no other explanation for the curious notation to include a character with

"gloopy hair and bad eyesight. Also, more monkeys. And at least one goat."

After having a painful chat with my publisher this weekend, in which she suggested I simply start typing and not care whether I'm typing words or just random letters, I held a family meeting to announce my recommitment to my novel!

I gathered Wendy and our dogs in the living room. The dogs followed expectantly because this usually means that we will be watching the *Real Housewives* and eating cheese-based snacks.

"I'm staring my book!" I said importantly. "I will need total silence for at least two hours a day while I write."

The dogs looked impressed, but Wendy rolled her eyes. "This is just an excuse for you to lock yourself away and watch *Real Housewife* clips on YouTube, isn't it?"

I immediately pulled out my ideas notepad. "I hadn't thought of that! I'll just jot that down." And then I excused myself to my office to start typing. No actual words were produced but I filled 20 pages with letters and symbols. It feels great to be writing again!

Watch for my new novel in 6 months....or maybe never. □

TROLÍN, UN DIABLITO ROSA

POR RODRO



Today I am going to talk about the sexual behavior of cows...
Aujourd'hui, je vais parler du comportement sexuel des vaches...



... that cow is heterosexual...
...cette vache est hétérosexuelle...



... that one, instead, is homosexual...
...par contre, celle-ci est homosexuelle...



... and that one is bisexual. Is it clear?
...et celle-là est bisexuelle. C'est clair?

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Mediocrity, Sing Thy Name

THERE ARE some things in life you can't get around: Bills. Words like "irregardless." Tantalizing fantasies of better lives in more glamorous places. Mediocrity.

We live much of our lives through the eyes of others (however willingly)—through dreams of us having the grandeur of the lives they're living (and "grandeur," mind you, need not translate into affluence). They—those brilliant few to whom we both look up to and envy—they need not worry with bills, mediocrity, or having meaningful lives, and grammar for the admirable in this group is priceless (Chomsky); for those consumed only with superficiality, not so much (Kardashian).

And this is the picture at a distance: a seemingly flawless painting hiding many holes—dark abscesses in which the truth resides: A cliché, of course—one we might otherwise phrase as "you love your heroes only from a distance." Get too close and their pimples take over.

So many of us, likely you included, live the completely "normal" lives I describe—those soaked in routine around family and work, but not much left to one's own devices. It seems then that our lives are largely choreographed: 9 to 5 each day, many of us will rise to make shareholders money, and then we'll stop by the grocery store on the way home to pick up milk and bread, and any last-minute ingredients for dinner. We'll make dinner—happily—for our partners and

for our families—and maybe have a couple hours to fade into the glow of our television—and then off to bed to have at it again the next day.

The routine is sometimes broken, or is sometimes even characterized, by more glamorous things like art shows, dinners on the town, drinks with our friends. And it all seems quite charming, these lives of ours. Forty hours a week at a desk for the luxury of *this*? A good ROI if ever there was one. Right?

But then we find ourselves—even in the happiest moments of our lives—wanting more, wanting to feel more important, wanting to leave an imprint of some kind—a legacy through which we might live forever, or do some good. This is the desire to pursue those funny little things we call "dreams."

For me, I desperately want to pursue my writing career with more vigor. My partner aspires to compose music. I have a friend who wants to open a haberdashery, another who wants to play viola professionally, and one who wants to impact as positively as she can the dental hygiene of children in Third World countries.

Our dreams drive our passions, and they remind us of our place. We float away with these dreams, pretending we've just written a best-selling novel, for only a moment escaping our reality, before opening our eyes again onto bills, onto responsibilities, onto endless cycling through lives we're merely "content" with.

Our lives are not the lives we expected them to be. They aren't the myths we believed as children, no matter how successful we are. We didn't imagine then that our successes would be outnumbered by failures. Nor did we think that struggles remained once we reached the place we thought we'd go.

We are thus our own former heroes: versions of how we saw our adult selves in our youth. And, just as we might understand when we encounter our heroes today, the heroes of our youth—us, grown up—aren't all what we thought they'd be.

There's always a need for more, even to the humble among us: some of us can't get our fill of attention, some can't quench our desire to help other people, and some can't stop climbing social and professional ladders—all for an end of having left something behind, for leaving the world affected in some way, be it the good we've done, or simply the presence we've left.

I could be cheesy here and turn this column into a hypocritical "follow your dreams" piece of bullshit, but I'll save you the irony. No, I'm not advocating anyone throw away their lives and follow their dreams. But neither do I advocate simply being an observer, living life from the outside in, equating "normal" to "ordinary." Our lives, however "normal" we may consider them, are instead rather extraordinary, simply because we live them. □

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